

KUBA CONNECTIONS

Discover the rhythmic magic of these exquisite raffia cloths from the Congo and use their beautiful quilt-like designs as a starting point for your improvisational small quilt top. You will see and feel actual examples of these woven and embroidered textiles as you work to make your own piece honoring their patterns. Their beauty inspired Picasso, Matisse and Klee to collect them, so let their unpredictable geometric designs start your magic!

Supply List

You may choose to work by hand or machine or both, so choose your supplies accordingly. I generally machine piece, add some hand appliqué, and stitch and quilt by hand.

- Normal machine sewing equipment, with usual straight sewing and zigzag feet, and a 1/4" foot.
- Needles: your normal needles for machine and hand work. Include a heavier needle if you might use heavier fabric.
- Pins
- Thread: matching thread and black thread for machine work and hand quilting.
- Rotary cutter with sharp blade and mat.
- Fabric scissors
- Batting: a piece approximately 36" x 36", or you may choose to have a longer narrower piece. This will be the size of your finished quilt top.

Fabric and Preparation:

Bring a good variety of earthy creams, browns, rusts, corals, beiges and blacks, preferably solids, hand-dyes or tone-on-tone prints. You may also choose to include some bold colorful African-like prints in various colors. Small pieces, such as fat quarters will be fine, but include a couple of larger 1/2 yards that you can use as your main feature fabric. Cottons and linens will work well, but you may also choose to bring heavier woven fabrics like raffia. The heavier fabrics are totally optional as you can achieve a very Kuba-like look with regular weight cottons. You can piece the backing, or bring one piece a little larger than your batting.

Remember your quilt will be made of improvised quilt-like blocks to give you a freely African look that celebrates these wonderful textiles.

Look up everything you can about Kuba cloths and bring images or books to class. There is plenty of information about these beautiful pieces and their history, look and design on the internet or in libraries. You will be blown away by their fascinating patterns and have fun making your own!